Computerisation of Rail Services

397. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive, long-term plan has been drawn up to further computerise various activities of the Indian Railways relating to Passenger Information and Freight Opearations, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 17th June, 2002 under the caption. "Railways chugs along technology"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially relating to on-line booking of passenger tickets and tracking of movement of train-loads ferrying raw materials of clients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Computerised passenger reservation services, with a facility of on-line booking of tickets, are already available at 742 locations all over the country. These facilities have been sanctioned at another 150 new locations in the Annual Budget 2002-03. There is a plan to cover all stations, having a workload of 100 transactions per day, with computerised reservation facilities, all District Headquarters, rail-head as well as non-rail-head, and important tourist stations and other important stations. Further, the implementation of pilot project is underway in Delhi area for providing facility of ticket booking through internet. Facility of internet based booking will be extened to other place depending upon the success of the pilot project.

Implementation of the project of Freight Operation Information System is underway. Under Phase I, one core module, Rake Management System (RMS) for capturing the frieight movement information in rake form has been implemented on Zonal Railways. RMS application provides information on rake based consignment tracking, stock holding, train and stock intercharge, terminal handling information, loco holding and outage. Phase II covering implementation of Terminal Management System (TMS) is underway and likely to be completed by March 2004. TMS application once implemented will capture registration of indents for wagons by customers and wagon-wise supply & loading details. It will also be possible to issue computerised Railway Receipts.